

Transition Plan 2014-2016

Mission

It is the mission of NCAMRA to ensure provision of a system of effective and efficient services to the individuals of this area with intellectual disabilities. The system of services shall be consumer and family driven, shall be provided in the least restrictive setting, shall maximize consumer and family input and shall use existing supports systems.

History and Resources

- Morgan, Lawrence, and Limestone Association for Retarded Children was incorporated in 1960 and operated a four week Arts and Crafts program for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities.
- In 1977, the Morgan, Lawrence, and Limestone ARC changed their name to Center for Developmentally Disabled, North Central Alabama (CDD NCA) and re-incorporated under Act 310. At this time CDD NCA provided all services in Morgan, Lawrence, and Limestone to include Infant and Toddler services, School Age services, and Adult services.
- In 1992, CDD NCA again changed their name to North Central Alabama Mental Retardation Authority (NCAMRA) and divested all services. All Day Habilitation, Residential, and Infant and Toddler services were subcontracted by this 310 Board.
- In 2000, NCAMRA began operating the Birdie Thornton Center at the request of consumers and family members and with the direct cooperation of the Department of Mental Health.
- In 2012, NCAMRA discontinued all subcontracted services, allowing all providers to function independently.
- In 2014, NCAMRA currently provides Case Management services to all waiver recipients and Infant and Toddler services under the Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services and the Department of Mental Health.

Current Status

NCAMRA currently provides services to 289 adult wavier consumers. These individuals access an estimated fifteen million dollars worth of services. NCAMRA has always worked to develop new providers in an effort to optimize family and consumer choice. As a result there are multiple providers in Morgan, Lawrence, and Limestone Counties. They are as follows:

A & K Heavenly Homes	Ability Plus	AS & C
CDD NCA	EM & S Group Homes	J & S Homes
K & D Homes	Loyd Homes	Life Ways System
Montelissa Homes	Oxford Health Care	R & R Homes
TSR	Volunteers of America	United Community Health Care
Robin's Nest	Pure Heart Home Care	

Each county has several residential and personal care providers. Morgan County has several day program providers. Lawrence County has one day program provider. Limestone County has one day program, the Birdie Thornton Center.

The Birdie Thornton Center was started by what is now NCAMRA. It was handed over to a new provider in 1992. Then in 1999 it was taken over by the Athens-Limestone ARC. Then it was handed back over to NCAMRA in 2000. Many of the fifty-eight current consumers have been with the program for years. The newer consumers have come from Limestone County and the surrounding areas. Each has chosen the Birdie Thornton Center. NCAMRA realizes this may be viewed as a conflict. However there is not another agency currently offering an alternative service in Limestone County.

Plan for the Future

In order to ensure Freedom of Choice and eliminate conflict of interest in Limestone County NCAMRA will seek providers of supported employment. Of the fifty-two consumers currently attending the Birdie Thornton Center, three have been referred to Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services. ADRS has interviewed one of these individuals.

We will increase our efforts in this area and move toward a prevocational model.

All new referrals will be informed of programs in the surrounding area and encouraged to participate in a supported employment program.

NCAMRA will continue to follow the Request For Services procedure.

1. Receive notification from region office that an individual has been approved for services and what services they are approved for
2. The case manager composes a brief summary of the individual and their needs
3. A request for service(s) is sent along with the summary of the individual to all providers in the service area.
4. Any provider interested in providing the requested service(s) will respond in writing.
5. The individual and family is given the opportunity to tour interested providers facilities.
6. The individual and family will choose the provider.
7. The chosen provider is notified and they will complete an IRBI, if appropriate, and return it to the case manager
8. Once the case manager has received IRBI, they send it to regional office with the Request For Regional Action (RFRA) for approval or denial

Adding to these procedures the fact consumers change providers on request, ensures that each consumer receives services from their provider of choice.